

Bible background

Matthew 2

Aim of lesson

To show that Jesus is God's chosen king and that we should serve him.

Preparation required

Colouring Materials, scissors, glue, sweet wrappers.

Make a large star cut out from card and covered with foil.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Show the children the star and tell how a star had appeared when Jesus was born. Explain how the wise men who lived a long way away in the East saw the star and knew that a very special king had been born. Ask who would like to be the star.
2. Give the star to one of the class and play a short game of follow-my-leader (even if it is just walking round the circle).
3. Tell how, near the end of their journey, they came to Jerusalem where king Herod was in his palace. They thought everyone would know about the new king; surely he would be in the palace. But the baby was not there, and some men at Herod's palace said that it is written in the Bible that the new king would be born in Bethlehem. The wise men went to Bethlehem. Have the star lead the children again to the baby Jesus. Explain how they found the child and gave him gifts.
4. Teach the song 'Some Shepherds Came'.
5. Tell the children that not everyone was pleased to hear that God's chosen king had been born. Herod was jealous. He was king and he did not want anyone else to be! He had asked the wise men to come back and tell him exactly where the baby was in Bethlehem so that he could kill him. But God knew what Herod was planning and sent two angels. One to warn the wise men not to go back and one to warn Joseph to take Mary and baby Jesus into another country until it was safe. Talk about what Herod did when he realised the wise men had gone and not told him.
6. Have each child make their gift box from the activity sheet and choose what present they would like to put in it to give to Jesus. You will probably have to write for them the act of kindness they have chosen, on a piece of paper which can be placed in the box.

Alternative activities

1. Cut out a large card square for each child. Draw around it on piece of plain paper then let the child draw a present for Jesus inside the space. Decorate the card square to look like a gift box and tape over the child's drawing so that it can be lifted up like a flap to reveal the picture underneath. Add a label with 'my gift for Jesus from ...'
2. Give each child a star to decorate with coloured paper, foil etc. Punch a hole in the top and make a loop of ribbon or thread to hang the star up.

Relevance to the children's lives

Thinking of acts of kindness as presents for Jesus.

Prayer

Ask each child to say a prayer beginning 'Dear Lord Jesus, I would like to give you ...'

Verse

'They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.' Matthew 2:11.

Or teach that Jesus' title is 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords' (Revelation 19:16).

Song

Some Shepherds Came



- v.1 Some shepherds came to Bethlehem
 So many years ago
 To see the Saviour of the world,
 Because they loved him so
 Because they loved him so.
- v.2 Then wise men came to Bethlehem
 So many years ago
 To worship him, the King of Kings
 Because they loved him so
 Because they loved him so.
- v.3 We cannot go to Bethlehem
 So many years ago
 But we can sing to praise our King
 Because we love him so
 Because we love him so.

Music and Words: cop con.